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at a later time even by Parliament itself. In this volume also is a considerable body of evidence of value for a study of the Land Bank Act or Paper Money Act of Barbadoes, a phase of the financial history of the colonies that is little known, but which was in its way as unwise and demoralizing as the corresponding act in Massachusetts later.

We are glad to note that Mr. Headlam has at last discovered the *Pennsylvania Archives* and the *New Jersey Archives*, and we have no doubt but that in time he will discover those of Maryland and North Carolina also. His calendaring is extraordinarily well done, and the opportunities that he gives for criticism are very few. "Mohican" is not the accepted spelling for "Mohegan" and the use of it in both preface and index is the more strange because of the regular appearance of the proper spelling in the text. For the work as a whole we have only the highest praise. Valuable as the earlier volumes of the series have been, it is as we advance into the eighteenth century that the *Calendar* becomes not only informing but positively illuminating. Every added volume from this time on is certain to widen the range of our knowledge of a period not only neglected but largely misunderstood.

CHARLES M. ANDREWS.

*French Policy and the American Alliance of 1778.* By EDWARD S. CORWIN, Ph.D., Professor of Politics, Princeton University. (Princeton: University Press; London: Humphrey Milford. 1916. Pp. ix, 430.)

It is a satisfaction to possess within the compass of a single volume a complete exposition of Franco-American relations during the American War of Independence. Such a volume, prepared with conscientious care, Professor Corwin has given us in *French Policy and the American Alliance*, which covers not only the negotiation of the treaties of 1778 and of the treaty of peace but furnishes us with a clear elucidation of the policy of France, considered from the point of view of its genesis, in determining upon a participation in the war.

The sources of information upon this subject are at present not only completely accessible, but for the most part to be found in printed documents; and there is no probability that further exploration of the archives will add anything of importance to the documentation now in hand, with the possible exception of some new light upon the Anglo-Spanish negotiations. Of all this material, of which Doniol has made the most important compilation, Professor Corwin has made a faithful and intelligent use that reflects credit at the same time upon his industry and his sense of proportion.

The result does not in any important particular revolutionize the conceptions formed by the best accredited of the previous writers, but it does appreciably add to our conviction that we are now able to comprehend the aims of the French government, the peculiar limitations of

its freedom of action on account of the relations with Spain, and the substantial loyalty of the king and his ministers to their engagements with the colonies.

Treating as he does solely of official policies and purposes, Professor Corwin makes no attempt to deal with questions of sentiment, either as regards the sympathy of the French people with the American colonists or the appreciation felt by the beneficiaries of French co-operation against Great Britain; and in this he is strictly logical. Great Britain had in 1763 deprived France of her American colonies, had opposed her interests on the Continent, had aided in humiliating her and destroying her prestige as a European Power, and was likely at some time to menace her West Indian possessions. By all the canons of eighteenth-century diplomacy, therefore, it was the policy of the French monarchy to inflict humiliation and loss upon Great Britain; and this was the motive that underlay the influence which the Count de Vergennes brought to bear upon Louis XVI. to induce him, first to offer secret aid, and finally openly and actively to espouse the American cause. Of official sympathy with the political ideas of the American Revolution there is, of course, no evidence; and yet the enthusiasm of the French people for the American cause, which was not merely resentment toward Great Britain but sincere sympathy with the American aspirations for liberty, must not be overlooked, for it was an appreciable factor in sustaining the official policy of the monarchy with popular approval, which was beginning to be felt as an influence in France. It was a risk, undoubtedly, that the monarchy was running in giving encouragement to liberal ideas; but this was counterbalanced to a considerable extent by the desire to restore the prestige of the crown, which had fallen so low under Louis XV.

Among the subjects particularly well discussed by Professor Corwin is the divergence of interests between France and Spain, and the consequent difficulty which Vergennes experienced in trying to reconcile them. Spain, having territorial possessions in North America adjacent to the British territories, had to consider her future interests on that continent. If the colonists succeeded in the war, there was danger that they would claim the possession of all the territory east of the Mississippi with the right of free navigation on that river, thus destroying the Spanish monopoly of commerce in the Gulf of Mexico, with a possibility of further aggressions. The danger resulting from an infection of the Spanish colonists with revolutionary ideas was also to be considered. For these reasons Spain never desired a complete success by the revolted colonies. France, on the other hand, having lost her continental American possessions, and having no disposition to recover them, but only to weaken and abase Great Britain, had no such interests at stake.

The policies of the two governments, though bound together by the *Pacte de famille* in terms of closest alliance, and united in their hostility to Great Britain, were at variance at many points; and one of the most

puzzling problems in Vergennes's diplomacy was to maintain the interests of France and the honor of the king as affected by the family compact on the one hand and the American alliance on the other. In this very difficult situation the part played by Vergennes was at times somewhat ambiguous, and has been severely criticized by writers who did not duly estimate the complications of his position; but, in the light of all the obligations involved, the rôle of Vergennes is, on the whole, creditable to his high sense of loyalty to both the allies of France. If at times his devotion to American interests seems to flag, the reasons for it are to be found, if not in the faults of the Americans themselves, in the obligations of the family compact between the two Bourbon monarchies. On the other hand, when the occasion called for it, the French minister did not hesitate to denounce the policies of Florida Blanca as "grounded in passion, prejudice and selfishness". Yet it should not be forgotten that the *Pacte de famille* was the real foundation of French diplomacy, while the American alliance was only a diplomatic episode. "Spain", wrote Vergennes, "will put her interests before everything else . . . and she looks upon independence with regret". In view of the counteracting influences, it must be admitted that Vergennes's attitude toward the colonies, to which he caused Louis XVI. to assent, was one of generous loyalty so far as the interests and obligations of France would permit.

In the controversy over Jay's conduct in the negotiations of peace, Professor Corwin seems to take a middle course; and justifies it by an explanation of the reason why Jay, whose frosty experience at Madrid had ripened his diplomatic perceptions, was suspicious of a too strong leaning on the part of Vergennes toward the Spanish interests, which he felt warranted in counteracting with all his power.

Taken as a whole, we have in this volume a scholarly piece of work, executed with an evenness of temper and sobriety of judgment that are to be strongly commended and should quite disarm a critic who might be disposed to be meticulous in pointing out insignificant defects, such as a considerable harvest of printer's errors, of which the author is no doubt fully aware but which are so evidently mere mechanical slips that they will not greatly annoy the reader. The style is even and perspicuous. Of individualisms the frequently recurrent expression "by the same token" is the most marked. Its vagueness does not, however, prevent its serving as a useful idiom for expressing the idea that the same transaction may have quite different aspects.

DAVID J. HILL.

*The Revolution in Virginia.* By H. J. ECKENRODE, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Economics and History in Richmond College. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1916. Pp. iii, 311.)

WE have in this volume one of the best studies of local history in a limited period that has been written in the American field. After most scholarly and exhaustive research the author has told his story with